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CLASSIFICATION
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 19 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Organization of the 23 Brigade, North Korean
VI Corps

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X ACQUIRED

25X DATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

1. Historical background.

- a. The 23 Brigade was stationed along the coast of Hwanghae Province when the Korean war broke out on 25 June 1950. It retreated to Kanggye (126-36, 40-58) (BA-9837) when the North Koreans were forced back, and stragglers from other units were integrated into the brigade. Following the advance of the "101 Troop" (the 8 Division) in the direction of Seoul, the 23 Brigade was assigned the mission of suppressing South Korean guerrilla forces and rehabilitating the North Korean forces in Hwanghae Province.
- b. Of the officers in the 23 Brigade, 40 percent were from North and South Hamgyong Provinces, 30 percent were from North and South Pyongan Provinces, 20 percent were from Hwanghae Province, and 10 percent were volunteers from South Korea.
- c. Most of the officers are settled in their ideas. However, about 20 percent of the officers joined the army after the outbreak of the Korean War, immediately from school, and are not yet completely pro-Communist. Except for the enthusiastic Communists from South Korea, who volunteered for service with the North Korean army, most of the men below the rank of officer are potential deserters.

2. Composition.

- 1 Battalion - in the compound of the headquarters of the brigade at Hunchon.
- 2 Battalion - in the area of Changyon (125-06, 38-15) (XC-8435).
- 3 Battalion - in the area of Ongjin (125-22, 37-56) (YC-0801).
- 4 Battalion - in Naesong-myon (125-51, 37-58) (YC-5006).
 - 1 Company - Hanchong-gol, O-pong-ni, Naesong-myon - 52 men.
 - 2 Company - Kaenggae-gol, Kumsong-ni, Naesong-myon - 50 men.
 - 3 Company - Saengwang-ni, Ilsin-myon - 48 men.

3. Organization of the 3 Squadron, Engineer Platoon, 4 Battalion.

Category - infantry

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Document No. **001**

Change in Class ☐

Declassified ☐

Class. Changed For Release ☐

Auth: HR 70-2

Date: 2 AUG 1978

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Location - two kilometers west of Naesong Primary School at Kanggye-dong (125-51, 37-58) (YG-5006), Kumsong-ni, Naesong-myon, Tonback-kun (headquarters of the battalion).

Buildings - more than 20 houses with native straw roofs. The houses are used by such units of the battalion as the engineer platoon, communications platoon, heavy machine gun platoon, field combat platoon, anti-aircraft artillery platoon, anti-tank platoon, and medical unit.

4. Arms and equipment (headquarters of the 4 Battalion).

BAR machine-guns	2
Maxim heavy machine-guns	1
Radio sets	1
Anti-tank gun	1
Pistols ("TT", Soviet-made)	7

Telephone equipment for connections with each platoon and other miscellaneous equipment.

5. Operations of the 4 Battalion:

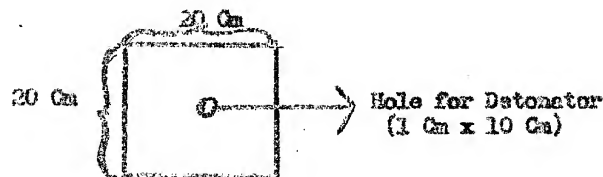
- a. The 4 Battalion was assigned the mission of building trenches and pill-boxes in the coastal areas of Naesong-myon and Ilsin-myon. The residents in these areas, as well as the soldiers, were mobilized for this work. The trenches were in the form of gutters in which the soldiers may stand while shooting.
- b. Approximately 400 Soviet-made mines were installed along the coast of Palhak-ni (sic) (팔각리) in Naesong-myon, and anti-tank mines were installed for about 30 miles.
- c. About 400 land-mines were installed along the coast of Chesan-ni, Ilsin-myon, and 50 anti-tank mines were installed along the third-rate highways between the Ilsin area and the Chongnyong (125-55, 37-51, YB-5793) area.

6. Description of mines installed.

a. Anti-tank mines - outside structure.

The mines are made of 20 centimeter square boxes with lids in which there are holes for insertion of the detonators. Boards measuring 20 centimeters by 1 centimeter by 1 centimeter will be placed in the boxes and the mines will explode when run over by tanks.

Diagram



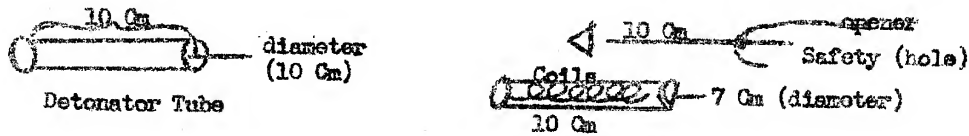
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b. Anti-tank mines -- inside structure, detonator.

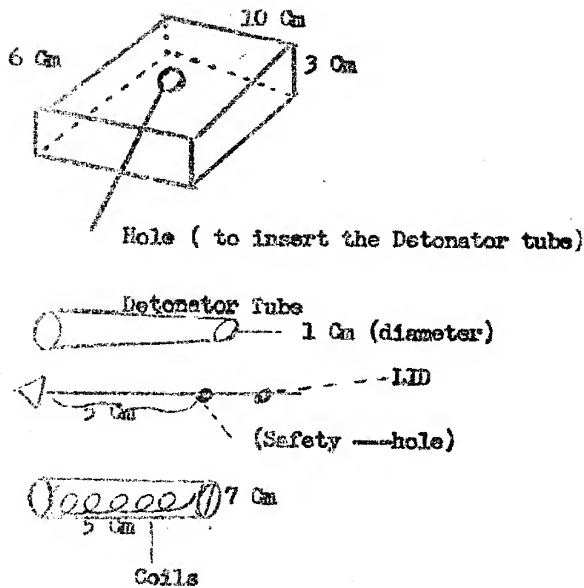
Diagram



c. Land-mines.

These mines look like soap in size and are buried in the earth and covered:

Diagram



7. Supply:

Bullets are supplied to each soldier by the headquarters of the brigade in lots of 100.

Hand-grenades are supplied only for specific targets.

No foodstuffs are supplied. Grain is therefore collected from the residents of the area as tax-in-kind by the People's Committee and distributed to the troops.

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